

Friis, John

From: Suzanne Letso [letso@cccdinc.org]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 5:23 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Raised Bill 1142, Section 4 (d) (i) OPPOSED

March 20, 2009

Thomas P. Gaffey, Co-Chair
Andrew M. Fleishmann, Co-Chair
Education Committee
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding Raised Bill # 1142, Section 4 (d) (i)

Relief of State Mandates on School Districts:

Dear Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleishmann, and Committee:

I am in strong opposition to Bill 1142, Section 4 (d) (i). This proposed legislation will shift the burden of proof in due all due process cases to the moving party on all issues. Since almost all due process in our state is brought by parents against school districts, this mandate puts an undue burden on parents to present an even higher standard of evidence than is currently required by IDEA. Parents are already at a great disadvantage when it comes to enacting their child's due process rights. The cost of attorneys and experts, and the stress on a family seeking administrative support when they believe their child has been denied FAPE is a barrier that few parents have the resources to manage. Please vote "NO" on this section of this bill.

Yours truly,
Suzanne Letso
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Newtown, CT 06470

3/23/2009